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usual situation, the elevator may be advantageously substituted. Hollow teeth, extremely liable to break by the common key-instrument, from the oblique pressure of the claw being applied only on one side, are not exposed to the same accident in the double claws, where the pressure is equally divided on both sides of the tooth, and the action is perpendicular.

These instruments have been seen, and highly approved of, by Drs. Hume, Kerrison, Seymour, Davison, Severn, &c.; and surgeons Keate, Liston, Carpue, Elwyn, Nicolson, Brown, Kingdon, Tod, &c. &c.; and by the London Medical Society.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

A. AIKIN, Esq.

JOHN GRAY.

Secretary, &c. &c.

This paper was accompanied by written testimonials from the above-named gentlemen.

No. XI.

CUPPING GLASS.

The Thanks of the Society were voted to J. L. FENNER, Esq. for the following Communication, describing a very simple and effectual Method of applying the Cupping-Glass.

SIR,

15 King's Row, Pentonville,

March 6, 1839.

I BEG to submit to the Society of Arts my invention to render the operation of cupping (whether with the scari-

ficator or as dry cupping) so simple, that the due exhaustion of the glass—the only point of difficulty—may be readily accomplished by any one, with unerring certainty and without the possibility of any accident. I have found, in my practice, that the application of the exhausted glass (dry-cupping) has proved a new source of relief in a variety of diseases, especially the neuralgic, to which the effect of most embrocations and liniments bears no comparison. A far greater number of diseases are relieved by dry-cupping than by the scarificator; and it has often proved an excellent substitute for a more painful blister. The true reason why such an important means of relief has been kept out of sight by the profession is that, as medical men seldom practice cupping, they do not attain the requisite *legerdemain* dexterity with the spirit-lamp; and, therefore, the expensive attendance of a professional copper is necessary. My patients, after once witnessing my mode of exhausting the glass, are in the habit of dry-cupping themselves—a triumph of efficient simplicity which no other mode of cupping could ever boast.

Mr. Clarke's ingenious invention for exhausting the cupping-glass, which the Society rewarded, answers very well, and is highly creditable to the inventor. What is the reason that it is not in use? Merely from the additional expense of the sets of silver springs to each variety of glass. Those who do not use the spirit-lamp resort to the bungling substitute of lighted tow or paper. For the above reasons, cupping is seldom employed by medical men.

My invention removes every obstacle to its general adoption, and is equally cheap, simple, and efficient. I attach a shred of dry lint, or linen, to the bottom of any

kind of cupping-glass (or, on emergency, to some forms of tumblers or wine-glasses) by means of a moistened wafer. A very little spirit of wine is dropped on the lint, and ignited, the mouth of the glass being held downward, so as just to keep the flame burning, until brought close to the part to which it is about to be applied. Next, the mouth of the glass is raised so as to allow the spirit to flare up for *an instant*; then the mouth is to be held downward, and when the flame recedes within the edge the glass is to be quickly applied to the skin, when it will be found to be duly and satisfactorily exhausted.

I have now two delicate ladies under medical treatment, who have been signally benefited by dry-cupping; each, after only once witnessing the operation, performed it on herself the next and successive times. One of them, dispensing with the assistance of vision, on one occasion applied the exhausted glass to her *back*, and kept it on more than an hour.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

A. AIKIN, Esq.

J. L. FENNER.

Secretary, &c. &c.

15 King's Row, Pentonville,

SIR,

April 17, 1839.

HAVING just received the enclosed from the widow of the late Captain Parker, who was Secretary to the Duke of Kent, &c., I beg you to place it with my letter on a simple and improved mode of cupping.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

A. AIKIN, Esq.

J. L. FENNER.

Secretary, &c. &c.

19 *Goulden Terrace, Islington,*

DEAR SIR,

April 17, 1839.

As you requested to be informed particularly of the exploit of your patient, in my house, of cupping herself, I beg to inform you that it was on the 26th of last March when you cupped her, for a long-standing pain in the back, with such signal relief. After my seeing her before retiring to rest, between ten and eleven o'clock, I found, the next morning, that about two in the morning, the patient, from feeling a return of pain in the part, had, by herself, applied the cupping-glasses to the two previously scarified parts, and with such success as to have half-filled the two glasses with blood : the quantity thus obtained was four ounces, about five hours after the scarification was made. Your patient had been accustomed to dry-cup herself on your very ingenious and most simple plan, which accounts for her accomplishing the almost incredible feat of applying the exhausted cupping-glasses to her own back.

I am, Sir, &c. &c.

ANNE PARKER.